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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## ***Shatt Al Arab Courthouse to Enhance Local Rule of Law***

By Mohammed Aliwi  
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**BASRAH, Iraq** -- To further perpetuate the rule of law in the Basrah province, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has started work on a third house of justice project, the Shatt Al Arab Courthouse, named for the river on whose banks it sits.

Dan Foltz, a resident engineer the Corps' southern district, said project calls for the construction of a two-story courthouse. He added that this will enhance the ability of Iraqi authorities, which now control the government in the province as a result of the Provincial Iraqi Control authority ceded to them Dec. 16 by Multi-National Forces Iraq – Southeast, to enforce the civilian rule of law.

Foltz said that the cost of the Shatt Al Arab Court house is projected to be about \$ 1.3 million. The project started in August 2007, and current construction goals include pouring the foundation, site preparation and design review.

"(The facility will) have two gardens, parking lots with covered parking, maintenance room, and eastern style bathrooms," he said. "The facility is scheduled to open by mid-year 2009." He added that the economic benefit to the area will be immediately felt because of the number of jobs it is projected the project will provide.

Lt. Col. Jan Carter, project manager with the Multi-National Security Transition



The land on which the Shatt al Arab Courthouse is to be built is being prepared for foundation work.  
 [USACE Photo]

Command-Iraq, said that one of the goals of the project is to ensure that quality management and construction techniques are being implemented by local Iraqi employees and contractors.

In addition to the courthouses, Foltz added, the Corps has also built firehouses, police stations, prisons and jails, border posts, vehicle control points, barracks and Iraq military bases.

"Our responsibility is making sure that the contractor's work meets with the specifications and the contractual obligations of the original contract," he said. "We also follow up the progress of the construction through the daily reports pro-

vided by the Iraqi engineers ) who are our eyes and ears in the construction sites."

Carter said that the contract also requires electrical work including a lighting system and structural lighting. Perimeter and security lighting system will encompass lights at building entries, exits, building perimeters.

"Once completed, the capabilities of this facility will help make Iraq a safer place for all who want peace and justice," said Foltz. "We are here to make a difference in the lives of the Iraqis to help them regain their country."



Workers take soil samples at the site of the new Shatt al Arab Courthouse in the Basrah Province. [USACE Photo]

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